



**Community Counts**  
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## Yavapai County AmeriCorps Project

2013-2014

### Yavapai County, Arizona

Federal Legislative District: 4

#### **FY 2012-2013 PROGRAM FAST FACTS**

**Congressional District(s): 4**  
**State Legislative District(s): 1**  
**Service Area by County/City: Yavapai**  
**County, rural and 8,125 sq. miles**  
**Project Federal Share: \$225,998**  
**Project Local Match: \$164,148**  
**Community Volunteers Recruited: 2,747**  
**Volunteer Hours Served: 7,691**  
**Value of Volunteer Hours: \$1,544,352.80**

\*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$20.08

#### **Community Need**

Yavapai County is a rural county in central-Arizona approximately the same size as the state of Massachusetts. Of the 35 communities within its boundaries, only 8 are incorporated. The remaining 27 non-incorporated communities have very limited to no public infrastructure and struggle to meet very specific, yet varied needs. YCAP focuses on helping impact as many community populations as possible. These populations are severely affected by economic hardship and include at-risk youth, the homeless, the disabled, and veterans.

#### **National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals**

##### **National Priority Areas: Healthy Futures, Education**

- 2,100 people will receive services related to food security.
- 1,600 youth, grades k-12, will participate in mentoring, tutoring, or other educational programming

#### **Program Activities**

YCAP functions as a multi-site AmeriCorps project and works with local organizations to directly help build their capacity, systems and overall missions to serve the community. The AmeriCorps members are involved in a number of ground breaking and influential work. They bring energy, enthusiasm and commitment to their sponsoring organizations. We serve alongside non-

profit service providers and public entities such as school districts, local colleges and governments and the faith-based community to improve the lives of the impoverished also to improve the environment in which we live. We purposefully engage the region in service and volunteerism.



#### **Program Impact**

Since being awarded with AmeriCorps State and National funding granted by the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism in 2009, Community Counts and the Yavapai County AmeriCorps Project has had 67 dedicated AmeriCorps members serving at 29 different partner sites. Through the efforts of our members and the incredible work being done beginning in October of 2009 through November of 2013, we have mobilized 5,003 volunteers contributing 13,859 hours of community service and have served 5,021 at-risk youth.

We are beginning the 5th AmeriCorps service year as a new Employee Network (EN) for the Social Security Administration (SSA). We hope to bring additional persons with disabilities into our program as both members and volunteers. It is important to us to actively seek new partnerships with organizations that share this vision with us to improve the lives of this population and help them further their careers/lives.

If you, or someone you may know may be interested in



YRP - as either a participant or Coach, please contact Hannah at the Community Counts office 928-708-0100.

## Yavapai County AmeriCorps Project

### Mission

The Yavapai County AmeriCorps Project's (YCAP) mission is to address critical community needs by engaging all populations, including the disabled, veterans, youth, Baby Boomers and ENCORE individuals in National Service and service-learning opportunities, and to empower and strengthen service providers by expanding National Service partnerships.

### Vision

We believe health, compassionate, engaged and vibrant communities are able to meet their own needs and create their take ownership of their shared visions for a sustainable and just future.

### History

The Yavapai County AmeriCorps Project (YCAP) was created alongside the Serve Yavapai VISTA project in 2009 as a collaboration of service-providers creating mutually beneficial project plans. Today, YCAP continues to help build and sustain the efforts of service-providers and community members to continually improve the quality of life across the County.

### Partnerships

Our 16 current partnerships in FY 2013-2014 include several that engage and mentor at-risk youth: *Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys to Men, Prescott Unified School District* and *Yavapai Juvenile Probation*. Organizations that assist those in economic hardship include: *Habitat for Humanity, Prescott Area Shelter Services, Catholic Charities, Yavapai Food Council, Yavapai Re-Entry Project, and West Yavapai Guidance Clinic*. Efforts to improve the environment are achieved with the *Friends of the Verde River Greenway* and *Highlands Natural Center*. *MATFORCE* educates the public about the harms of substance abuse and the *Institute for Sustainable Commission* assists adults with a GED completion program and ESL classes. Disaster community recovery services after the Yarnell Hill fire will be provided by our member with the *Yarnell Community Recovery Group*.

### Member Success Story:

#### Hannah Johnson, Yavapai Reentry Project (YRP)

Through AmeriCorps VISTA leadership, YRP began in July 2011 as a *Community Counts* project. YRP is a regional support system that was developed through the collaboration of many organizations including non-profits, criminal justice and other service providers who make a difference in the lives of those exiting the Arizona Department of Corrections (AZ DOC). There are nearly 70 participants enrolled the Community Coach Mentorship Program (CCMP) and in Independent Referral (IR) program combined.

32 people have been trained as volunteer coaches for the CCMP since inception of the YRP. Participants meet with their coach a few times a month to work on goals - whether it's attending AA/NA meetings, applying for school, or writing resumes. The YRP currently has 11 active participant/coach matches and 11 coaches waiting to be matched (including some who are willing to be matched with an additional participant). IR participants (20 currently) maintain a long-distance relationship with YRP staff, receive case plans and monthly check-in phone calls.

To date, volunteers with YRP have completed over 1,300 hours of service at a monetary estimated value of \$26,000.

Looking ahead into 2014, AmeriCorps member Hannah Johnson will continue to hold bi-monthly Community Education Meetings and focus on increasing the number of participants and coaches. She plans to provide additional coach support and training, help build stronger relationships with service providers for successful referrals, and project sustainability.